

FREE!

SUNDAY morning

ANIME EXPOSURES

The Official ANIME EXPO 2000 Newsletter

- Yutaka Minowa 10:30am
- AnimeEigo 1:00pm
- Game Show No. 3 1:00pm
- Pokemon Stadium 2:00pm

Issue 5

Because Animated Minds Want To Know

July 2, 2000

MASQUERADE! 'NUFF SAID!

Human 'animated characters' and thousands of crazed fans combine into the most favorite traditional AX event



Above: Masquerade pictures - yay!!

Something completely shocking has happened to AX 2000: the Masquerade actually started on time! And 48 entries of cosplayers were all upstaged by ... chairs?! Don't ask, you just had to be there... As 8 o'clock rolled around, the lights went out at Live Programming 1, and Micky took the stage. Correction: That's the Miki from Revolutionary Girl Utena - aka Darryl Hwang in a blue wig - not the Mickey from Disneyland.

Hwang/Miki worked the crowd and

cosplayers as a true Master of Ceremonies, ordering each set of contestant(s) to a time limit of 2 minutes - to be timed by his trademark stopwatch. Or else...the sword! And the sold-out show quickly kicked off with a bevy of the usual vibrant costumes, innovative skits, out-of-synch dances, Sailors, lesbian kisses, and of course, T&A. Also on hand was a significant amount of Disney bashing, especially among the best written skits. The winner for Best of

See MASQUERADE, page 2

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

- Video Room 5 Sunday Night Schedule Changes:

- 6:30p Legend of Black Heaven
- 7:20p Chinese Ghost Story
- 8:45p Giant Robo Vol. 3

- New Releases from Bandai Entertainment:

- Fancy Lala
- BcHerman
- Z-mind
- Crest of the Stars (Seikai no Monsho)
- Angle Links
- Saber J DVD (in 2001) with Spanish
- Gundam the Original Series 43 episodes
- Gundam 0080/Gundam 0083 DVDs

- THE CHAIR autograph sessions will be in held in all programming rooms throughout the rest of the convention (for that matter, in any room with chairs).

MASQUERADE AWARDS!

Cosplayers walk away with much deserved awards!

After an enjoyable and funny masquerade contest, people waited to see the winners of best costume design. The criteria of the three judges - Walter Amos, Steve Lin, and Jerry Chu - was based on costume detail and creativity. Though they found it difficult to choose from all the impressive cosplayers, the judges managed to narrow down to the winners.

CRAFTSMANSHIP

Honorable Mention 1: Return to Laputa. Composed of a family of cosplayers, the mother was naturally dressed as Ma Dola, the father wore a pirates' white suit, and the daughter decked out in Sheeta garbs. They went in search of Laputa, only to discover that Disney has bought

See AWARDS, page 3



Left: Alacard and fairy familiar, and above: person holding nifty sign.



grr Take the chair and suffer the sword!

MASQUERADE from Page 1

Show (Return to Laputa) made very snide remarks about Disney's acquisition of *Laputa: Castle in the Sky*. Of course the crowd all cheered with approval, much to the dismay of hotel security.

But most cosplayers just wanted to strut their stuff, and there was a lot of stuff to strut. You would never imagine that the members of SEELE (those talking black blobs from EVA) could boogie to "Fly Me To The Moon," but they did. Or how about Nick Wolfwood of Trigun quoting Ezekiel a la Samuel L. Jackson, ending the speech by firing his big cross of a gun? Even the Pokemon cast joined in the wacky fun when Ash revealed his Team Rocket T-shirt during a song and dance.

Aside from those surprises, most contestants were the usual fare. The cut-

est performers were all Sailors, whether it be the entire cast of the Sailor Jambo-ree (who took Best of Presentation prize) or the too-cute-to-be-legal ChibiMoon & Queen Serenity. Uranus and Neptune didn't take home any prizes, but they would certainly have won for Best Kiss if there was such a category.

As the evening progressed, audience members began developing a certain infatuation with the chairs being used on stage. Thunderous applause would break out at the mere mention of chairs, and some people actually booed when chairs were carried off the stage. All of this chair fetish caused a puzzled MC Hwang/Miki to wonder "you're sitting in chairs, and you're still screaming for more?!"

See MASQUERADE, page 4



School girls, cheerleaders, or Sailor Scouts? They're obviously happier than they ought to be.

The Chair

Walks on all four as audience goes wild

This year's AX Masquerade hosted a collage of brilliant costumes and witty improvisations, which would last through distant memory. However, the biggest highlight of the extravaganza was a piece of furniture, yes a piece of hard metal: a chair. The one and only "AX Chair," burst through its inhibitions, as it stunned the audience with its amazing talent of stillness, but yet subtle inertness, that marked a new era in anime miming.

Interestingly, the history of the AX Chair—or sometimes simply referred to as "the Chair"—follows a long tradition, spanning back to times when it was used as an exploitive object to rest one's rear end. The Chair's publicist stated that the Chair expressed some concerns over the MC's (Darryl Hwang) insensitive remark of calling it an "inanimate object." When personally interviewed about the great hoopla, the chair in its usual reserved manner kept a quite passive stance. Its cool attitude only reflects the idea that it is not just made out of metal and rough fabric.

The AX chair has now become the symbolic representation, or rather the motto of what the AX has truly defined itself as: that the AX is something that can't be sat on, and all booty are welcome. Fortunately, the chair's agent has commented that the AX Chair will "try to make next year's convention," even at its busy and rigorous schedule.



*Left: FF8 Dating Game
- Note the three Chairs!*

should win because "she's just so darn cute."

Judge's Award 1: The Macross Consortium. Sharon Apple graces us with her mystic, hypnotic song. The judge who awarded this to her noted that she kept things simple yet classic.

Judge's Award 2: Anything Goes School of Masquerade Arts. The cast faithfully reenacted key scenes from Mononoke Hime, but followed by taking a stuffed "Mouse" and throwing him aside. No wonder one judge liked this group so much.

Judge's Award 3: No Need for Tenchi, which featured Ryoko and Ayeka fighting over Tenchi. That's nothing new, but all were singing "Pretty Fly For (An Asian) Guy" while a giant Ryou-oki looked on. The judge awarding this group noted their quirky humor and creativity in performing the skit so much in character to the anime.

Best Child Performance Award: Super Sailor Chibimoon & Queen Serenity. This little skit was preformed by a little Chibimoon and an even smaller Queen Serenity. The audience couldn't help but fall in love with these two, because they're too cute dammit!

3 r d
P l a c e :
They've
got some



See AWARDS, page 4

AWARDS from Page 1

it. That, of course, calls for the use of gun cannons! This was chosen because the costumes were accurate, clean, and well-tailored. The judges found it wonderful that anime can be a family affair.

Honorable Mention 2: A Card Captor Sakura costume from the URAN2 skit was chosen in particular despite being a group entrance. The judges believed that such attention to detail was difficult, and she was able to transform the character into reality.

Best Novice Costume Design: The Elite Battalion of Dragon Slayers. Judges noted their attention to detail, especially Zeldgadis for his face makeup. As one judge commented, just looking at that much stuff glued to his face made his own skin itch.

Best Master Costume Design: Mirage

Knights, from Five Star Stories. The two guys were dressed in white tights, but certain body parts were covered by elaborate metallic designs. While on stage, they



goofed around with each other. One person used everyday items, including plastic bunny ears, to make his metallic gloves. Judges agreed that the overall presentation was excellent.



*We're here to Pump *clap* you UP!*

PRESENTATION

Honorable Mention for Best Presentation 1: Infornographists. The cast consisted of various characters who went from fighting each other to playing Dance Dance Revolution, with a little Wassup reference tossed in there somewhere. The judges honored them for the entertainment and fun they provided to the audience.

Honorable Mention for Best Presentation 2: Akari Kanzaki, whose performance was among the minimalists: she crawled out of a cardboard house, saw the audience, spooked, and ran backstage. One judge commented that she

EXPOSED!

Which anime character looks good enough to eat? And why?



"Tamahome! He's like my dream boy! I'd marry him if I were an anime character."

Abigail Bolog
Diamond Bar, CA



"Pikachu! Why? Cause I want to."

Daniel Short
Mechanicsburg, PA



"Marron from Sorcerer Hunters, since his name is a food name anyway."

Jessica Mattox
Westchester, PA



"Saitou from Kenshin. He's the best looking guy thats not too old."

Mai Namba
Garden Grove, CA



"Pikachu, it's juicy enough to eat!"

Bernie
Pasadena, CA



"Mai from Fatal Fury. She looks scrumptious . . . ooooooh, yeah!"

Brad Wassing
Hemet, CA



"Deedlit - love those ears!"

Richard "The Cutie" Lucio
Anaheim, CA

MASQUERADE from Page 2

Finally, after two hours of pure entertainment, the program ended with the judges' deliberation (while music videos played) and then awards were presented to the lucky few. All of the winners deserved what they got, and those who didn't win certainly entrained an audience of hundreds. Where else can one see the entire movie of Mononoke Hime enacted in two minutes? Or witness Ryoko and Ayeka battle over Tenchi to the groove of Offspring's "Pretty Fly For (An Asian) Guy?" At AX 2000 of course!!!

- Wing Fox

AWARDS from Page 3

NERV. "They've got some humor too," as the judges noted. These were the entrants who pranced around in black cardboard boxes, as SEELE 01 to 06, to the tune of "Fly Me To The Moon." The fact that their bare legs were visible to the audience only added to the humor. Their fancy footwork and unique approach won them the award.

2nd Place: Vampire Masquerade. The characters from Dark Stalkers and Castlevania simulated a video game battle. Many guys whistled when Morrigan appeared. (Not surprising.)

Best of Presentation, aka, 1st Place: Return to Laputa. This helps to emphasize the fact that family values are important.

Best of Show: Sailor Jamboree. A group of eight women in fabulous get-ups danced and sang to a Sailor Moon song. This act could put professional cheerleaders to shame. Judges chose this one as the winner for their upbeat energy and their dance.

- Jing Tung and Wing Fox



SUNDAY LIVE PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE!

SUNDAY	Live Program 1 (Grand Ballroom)	Live Program 2 (Coronado)	Live Program 3 (Avalon)	Gaming (Mediterranean)
10:00 AM	Hirotsuge Kawasaki	APPP/Super Techno	Studio Hard	Gamera
11:00 AM	Yutaka Minowa (11:30)	Urban Vision	Studio Pierrot	Gamera
Noon	Yutaka Minowa	Post Masquerade	Studio Perrot	Escaflowne Movie
1:00 PM	Mitsui/Matsui	AnimEigo	Game Show #3	Escaflowne Movie
2:00 PM	Rica Fukami (2:30)	Manga Entertainment	Game Show #3	Akihabara Dennogumi
3:00 PM	Rica Fukami	CPM/USMC	Anime Conventions	Akihabara Dennogumi
4:00 PM	Junichi Hayama	Sailor Moon Music Panel	Costume Designers	Pokemon 1st Movie
5:00 PM	Junichi Hayama	Anime online	Escaflowne Fan	Pokemon 1st Movie
6:00 PM	Kazuki Akane	Anime online	Student Voice Dub	Utena